States Observation Tools Matrix UN-Poster

Email: Brown_Kristen@cde.state.co.us
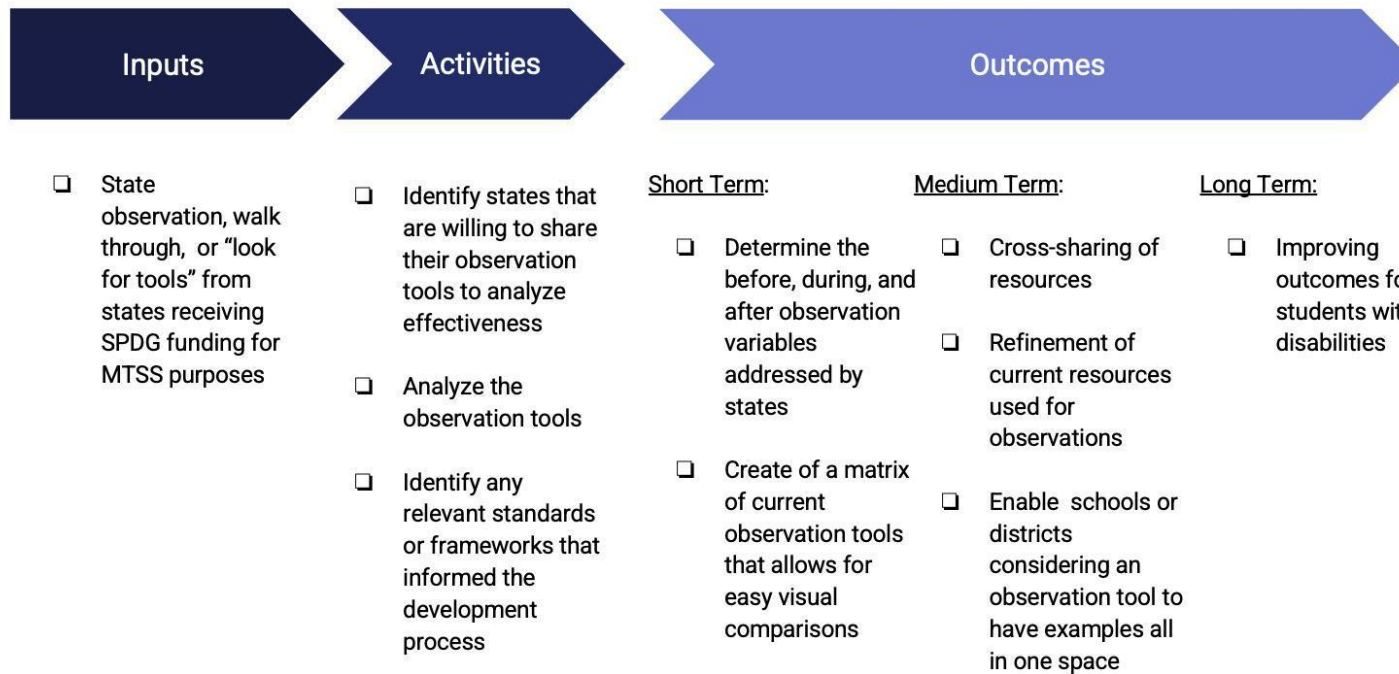**SPDG State:** Office of Learning Support/Colorado Department of Education
Website: https://www.cde.state.co.us/mtss

Purpose of the Work

The primary goal of this study was to analyze classroom observation tools used by State Personnel Development Grants Program (SPDG) states to identify what states are doing well and where they can improve. The analysis aimed to provide states with resources and examples to build upon their existing tools or develop new ones. By creating a matrix that organizes and compares various observation tools, the study sought to improve the quality of program evaluation and decision-making processes across all SPDG-funded programs.

Logic Model

Inputs

- ❑ State observation, walk through, or "look for tools" from states receiving SPDG funding for MTSS purposes

Activities

- ❑ Identify states that are willing to share their observation tools to analyze effectiveness
- ❑ Analyze the observation tools
- ❑ Identify any relevant standards or frameworks that informed the development process

Outcomes

Short Term:

- ❑ Determine the before, during, and after observation variables addressed by states
- ❑ Create of a matrix of current observation tools that allows for easy visual comparisons

Medium Term:

- ❑ Cross-sharing of resources
- ❑ Refinement of current resources used for observations
- ❑ Enable schools or districts considering an observation tool to have examples all in one space

Long Term:

- ❑ Improving outcomes for students with disabilities

Observation Area of Focus

State	Area of Focus
Colorado	Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Behavior, General Academics
Idaho	Literacy
Maine	Mathematics
Michigan	Classroom Management, Literacy
North Carolina	Literacy, Mathematics
Oklahoma	MTSS Implementation
Pennsylvania	Literacy
Rhode Island	Literacy

During the Observation

State	Fidelity	Quality of Instruction	Student Engagement
Colorado	X	X	X
Idaho	X	X	
Maine	X	X	
Michigan	X	X	
North Carolina	X	X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X
Pennsylvania	X	X	X
Rhode Island		X	X

Key Findings

The analysis of state observation tools revealed several key findings.

- States use observation tools across various areas, including literacy, mathematics, behavior, classroom management, and Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

- Most tools (89%) were based on evidence-based practices, and all tools assessed the quality of instruction. However, only 56% measured student engagement, and 78% assessed fidelity.

- The responsibility for conducting observations varied, with instructional coaches, school staff, district coordinators, and SPDG trainers being involved.

- A critical gap identified was the lack of guidance on interpreting data and providing feedback after observations.